(c) whether the rules for adopting a child in India are different from that of foreigners;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to bring in a uniform adoption Act;

(f) if so, the time by which it is likely to be brought; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Various clauses of the final Act of Hague Convention held at Hague on 10-29th May, 1993 are being examined in this Ministry in consultation with other concerned Departments, before a final decision is taken on the Act.

(c) and (d) At present in India children can be taken in adoption under two different Acts. Hindus, whether residing in India or abroad, can adopt a child under the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act (HAMA), 1956 whereas persons belonging to other religions such as Christian, Muslims, Parsees, Jews etc., whether Indian citizens or foreign citizens, can take a child under guardianship under Guardian and Wards Act, 1890.

However, in the case of Inter-country adoption of orphaned and destitute children, Ministry of Welfare, Government of India has issued Revised Guidelines dated the 29th May, 1995 laying down the procedures and guidelines to be followed for such adoptions.

The reason for a different set of rules for inter-country adoption as prescribed in the Revised Guidelines is that it provides a number of safeguards and procedures which have to be followed by all concerned agencies which include the State Government, Placement Agencies, foreign agencies, foreign adoptive parents, Ministry of Welfare, (CARA) etc. in order to protect the interests of the children who are sent abroad for adoption purposes.

(e) and (f) No Sir.

(g) The Adoption of Children Bill to provide for a Uniform Law on Adoption applicable to all communities was introduced in Parliament in the year 1972 and also in the year 1980 but in view of vehement opposition from the Muslim and Parsi communities respectively the proposals were dropped. At present there is no proposal to make a Uniform Law on Adoption under consideration of the Government of India.

Reimbursement of Transport Cost on Sugar

1631. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether in the matter of distribution of levy sugar only railway-freight from the nearest railway station to the place of business of sugar nominee is allowed to be reimbursed;

(b) if so, whether representations have been received from the sugar nominee associations and from the Government of Gujarat to allow reimbursement of the actual minimum cost of transport especially in respect of outlets of the far away and unconnected places with the Railway;

(c) whether similar representations have been received from the other States as well; and

(d) if so, the response of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (d) Till 1.4.1996 the transportation charges were reimburseable either on the basis of (a) actual railway freight or (b) actual transportation charges by road at the rate approved by the State Govt. limited to the rate of transportation charges approved by the FCI for transporting foodgrains in that State. Where the FCI's rates are not available, the State Govts. rates be allowed limited to the actual railway freight. Where FCI's rates and rail head is not there, State Govt. rates may be allowed.

Government received a series of representations from different State Govts. including from Govt. of Gujarat to allow reimbursement of the actual minimum cost of transport. Considering their problems, it was decided to revise the guidelines for transportation charges w.e.f. 1.4.1996.

Now the transportation charges are payable on a flat rate for each State to be fixed on the basis of audited figures of expenditure incurred for previous years duly approved by the State Government concerned.

Industrialisation Activities in Thane

1632. SHRI RAM NAIK :
SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the bandh of industries, commercial establishments and public transport on January, 25th in the six talukas of Thane district in Maharasthra to protest against the Centre's notification of 1991 which banned all industrialisation activities in the 25 kms. periphery zone of Dahanu Taluka in Thane district;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware of the various public places to revoke the ban;

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal to reconsider the protested notification;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether peripheral area of 25 kms. around Dahanu Tehsil also covers adjoining State of Gujarat and Union Territory of Dadra & Nagar Haveli; and

(f) if so, their reaction in this regard ?